

English 487G-001
Cultural Studies: Children and the Novel
TR 12:30—1:45
FB B13

Professor: Lisa Zunshine
Office Hours: POT 1365, TR 10:50 am—12:20 pm

Phone: 257-6972
e-mail: zunshin@uky.edu

Books:

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Emile: Or, On Education* (Basic Books)
Vladimir Nabokov, *Speak, Memory* (Vintage)
Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass* (Grosset and Dunlap)

Requirements:

- **attendance:** you are allowed two unexcused absences (this includes family and transportation emergencies as well as all other situations not covered by a doctor's note specifying the exact hour of your medical appointment). After three unexcused absences, you lose one grade; after four absences, you lose two grades; if you accumulate five unexcused absences, you cannot pass this course. If you miss a class, do not e-mail me asking "what we did in class," or whether you "have missed anything important," or if there are any writing assignments due next day. Instead, contact another student from our class, whose e-mail is:

- 1.
- 2.

- written assignments—20% (these short papers should be typed and kept in a folder. You are required to turn in that folder at the end of the semester together with your final paper. Late written assignments are not accepted under any conditions, but you can miss one assignment without your grade being affected. Each paper should be 1-2pp, double-spaced, with the first sentence stating clearly your thesis and the rest substantiating your thesis with a close reading based on the primary text. No credit will be given to papers lacking a proper thesis or substituting close reading with retelling the story or paraphrasing a passage from the book)

- midterm examination—20%
- final examination—20%ⁱ
- two papers—40% (**important:** see the note on plagiarism belowⁱⁱ)

Schedule of Readings:

Aug 25 (R) Introduction

Aug 30 (T) *Emile*, pp. 33-74, until the end of the First Book.

Sep 1 (R) *Emile*, pp. 77-116, until "He must know how to read when reading is useful to him; up to then it is only good for boring him."

Sep 6 (T) *Emile*, pp. 116-163, until the end of the Second Book

Sep 8 (R) *Emile*, pp. 165-195, until "Rich or poor, powerful or weak, every idle citizen is a rascal."

Sep 13 (T) *Emile*, pp. 195-252, until "Relating everything to themselves alone and regulating their ideas of good and bad according to their own interest, they fill their minds with countless ridiculous prejudices, and in everything that hampers their slightest advantage, they immediately see the overturning of the whole universe."

Sep 15 (R) no class

Sep 20 (T) *Emile*, pp. 252-313, until the end of the Profession of Faith of the Savoyard Vicar

Sep 22 (R) *Emile*, pp. 313-344, until “I am talking here not about the moral goods which depend on the good disposition of the soul, but only about what is connected with sensuality and with real voluptuousness apart from prejudices and opinion.”

Sep 27 (T) *Emile*, pp. 344-389, until “Only foolish women are boisterous; wise women do not make a sensation.”

Sep 29 (R) no class

Oct 4 (T) *Emile*, pp. 389-434, until “And Sophie, without being aware of it, kisses her mother a little more on the day she comes up with this expedient.”

Oct 6 (R) *Emile*, pp. 434-450, until “His heart would have to have changed very much for me not to be able to return it to her.”

Oct 11 (T) *Emile*, pp. 450-480, until the end of the book.

Oct 13 (R) Review for the midterm. **First paper (5-7pp, typed, double-spaced) is due at the beginning of the class.**

Oct 18 (T) **Midterm**

Oct 20 (R) *Alice in Wonderland*, to the end of Chapter 4

Oct 25 (T) *Alice in Wonderland*, to the end of Chapter 9

Oct 27 (R) *Alice in Wonderland*, to the end of Chapter 12

Nov 1 (T) *Through the Looking Glass*, to the end of Chapter 4

Nov 3 (R) *Through the Looking Glass*, to the end of Chapter 7

Nov 8 (T) *Through the Looking Glass*, to the end of Chapter 12

Nov 10 (R) *Speak, Memory*, pp. 9-50, to the end of Chapter 2

Nov 15 (T) *Speak, Memory*, pp. 51-94, to the end of Chapter 4

Nov 17 (R) *Speak, Memory*, pp. 95-118, to the end of Chapter 5

Nov 22 (T) *Speak, Memory*, pp. 119-172, to the end of Chapter 8

Nov 29 (T) *Speak, Memory*, pp. 173-251, to the end of Chapter 12

Dec 1 (R) *Speak, Memory*, pp. 253-273, to the end of Chapter 13

Dec 6 (T) *Speak, Memory*, pp. 275-310, to the end of Chapter 15

Dec 8 (R) Review for the final. **Second paper (7-10 pages) is due. You have an option for turning in your paper on the day of the final (your grade will not be affected).**

Dec 15 (R) **1 pm: Final Examination**

ⁱ The final is **not** cumulative and covers only the second part of the semester. I structure my midterms and finals so that it is easy to do well on them if you have read all the texts and paid attention in class. It is practically impossible to get a passing grade on the exam if you have not read the required materials.

Here is an excerpt from one of my last year’s midterms, which should give you a fair idea of what your exams will be like.

- Discuss how what is happening in the passages is important for the development of the plot or the development of the character. Note that if you misidentify the text, you cannot get any credit for the rest of your answer. 5 points.
- Analyze the passage’s imagery. Discuss briefly how it relates to some larger theme of the text/course. **2 points.** Note that paraphrasing the passage in your own words does not qualify as discussing its images.

1. The hour sounds. What a change! Instantly his eyes cloud over; his gaiety is effaced. Goodbye, joy! Goodbye, frolicsome games! A severe and angry man takes him by the hand, says to him gravely, “Let us go, sir,” and takes him away. In the room into which they go I catch a glimpse of books. Books! What sad furnishings for his age! The poor child lets himself be pulled along, turns a regretful eye on all that surrounds him, becomes silent, and leaves, his eyes swollen with tears he does not dare to shed, and his heart great with sighs he does not dare to breathe.

ⁱⁱ **Plagiarism (passing somebody else’s work for your own, e.g., failing to document even a single phrase that you copied from the Internet) is a serious academic offence. I never settle plagiarism cases amicably and informally; instead I always prosecute the plagiarizers. Talk to me *before you turn in your essay* if you are not sure how to document your sources.**